

Wright County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Equipment for Rent		
No-Till Drill	7ft.	\$5.00/ac
	10ft	\$6.00/ac
Boom Sprayer		\$20.00/day
Boom Sprayer w/Marker		\$35.00/day
Brush Sprayer		\$15.00/day
Broadcast Seeder		\$15.00/day
Post Driver		\$30.00/day
Post Hole Digger		\$3.00/hole
		\$25.00 minimum
Corner Post Driver		\$50.00/day
Lime Spreader		\$50.00/day
Mulcher		\$50.00/day
Roller		\$30.00/day
Flex Harrow		\$40.00/day
Roto Wiper		\$35.00/day
Manure Spreader		\$100.00/day
Tank Wagon		\$100.00/day
		+\$25.00 delivery

Other Available Equipment
For Sale
Ritchie Water Tanks
And Parts
Concrete Tanks
No Cost
Crimping Tools
Soil Augers
Spinning Jenny

For Lagoon Pumping Rates...please call
our office at 417-741-6195 ext. 4

Wright County Soil & Water Conservation District
The Wright News

FALL 2009



Preparing for Winter Stockpiling

As we look at the approaching winter months, it is time for producers to carefully evaluate their options for feeding cattle. While much speculation exists about the yield and price of grain crops, a more critical question may be the price of roughage if it is even available.

One of the first steps in planning is to determine needs of the cow herd. An average of 25 pounds of hay per 1000 pound cow per day is a good place to start. This should be the amount actually eaten, with feeding and storage losses added above that.

Serious consideration should be given to culling heavily on the low producers and problem animals. This will improve herd characteristics as well as reduce feeding costs. The earlier this culling is done, the further pasture will last into the winter.

How fall pasture and winter stockpile is grazed can make an impressive difference in wintering costs of the cow herd. When cows have access to all fields at once, they actually eat about 30 to 35 percent of the above ground growth. An equal is wasted through trampling and defecation. By rotating the herd through 4 or more fields on a weekly move basis, about 1/2 more or 45 percent is eaten. The greatest consumption comes from strip grazing the winter stockpile forage. By working out from the water source and limiting access to 1 to 3 days supply of grass at a time, the cows will eat near 70 percent of the growth. This is as efficient as haying equipment without the cost. Polywire electric fences prove very handy and economical for this use.

If you are interested in pursuing this approach to winter forage needs and would like assistance in planning, please contact Wesley, Cody or Harlin at our office.

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Cattle and Woods Could Be a Bad Combination
By Wesley Lebahn, District Technician

When the leaves begin to change in the fall it is enjoyable to look at the beauty of the Ozarks fall color display. However; if you are looking for a cow that is calving, the woods may not be such an enjoyable place for you. There is also a bigger concern for the cow calf operator, cattle getting an appetite for acorns. Individual animals may develop a strong taste for green acorns. Acorns containing the chemical tannin can make a cow very sick. When the fall rain and winds appear, green acorns are knocked to the ground and the cattle begin to seek them out.

For the bovine that has decided to indulge on the acorns, illness may not be evident immediately. There is a good chance that it will take up to fourteen days for the symptoms to surface. Unfortunately there will be little chance that the owner will be able to save the severely affected cattle. The best that can be hoped for is culling the animals before the cattle become to emaciated to sell. Animals consuming acorns will have low appetite and constipation followed by severe diarrhea (possibly with blood), which will lead to dehydration and downer cattle. If any of these symptoms are appearing you should contact your veterinarian for guidance.

Fencing the woods will help manage both these issues with an added benefit to the wildlife. If you enjoy hunting you know that the deer and turkey also have an appetite for acorns. They are able to digest them and not experience the poisoning problem. Without having to compete with your livestock for available food they will thrive in the environment that you are providing for them. There is also the possibility of placing the fence a few feet from the tree line and making an area for a foot plot, the options are limitless once you think about it.

If the desire of the landowner is to also harvest the timber there is an additional practice that may be utilized. Once the woodlands are fenced off a timber harvest plan can be developed. Working with a forester from the MO Department of Conservation and the SWCD, a plan for best forest management will be written up. If the landowner follows the plan an incentive payment will be made.

If you are interested in either the Woodland Exclusion practice or the Timber Harvest Plan practice please call or stop by our office and visit with myself, Harlin or Cody.

Grazing School to be Held in Mansfield

October 26, 27 and 28

A regional grazing school will be held October 26th, 27th and 28th. The school will be held at the Mansfield First Assembly of God church located at 340 N. Julie Ave, Mansfield. We will have classes on Monday and Tuesday from 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. and Wednesday from 8:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. All three classes must be attended to receive certification.

Grazed forages are the most economical feed input available for our livestock. This is easily recognized in the spring by how soon we are able to ‘turn out’ on grass and extend grazing into the late fall. All too often, we feel at the mercy of “Mother Nature” in forage production without stopping to realize the true impacts we have on the outcome. The way we manage grazing time, height and fertility can have a dramatic effect on production and how the plant is able to cope with weather factors. This course will make you think about your management style and how it affects the forage performance. It will also give you the information and tools needed to make adjustments to improve your bottom line. We have had requests from past participants to repeat the course as a refresher because they found the content practical and effective.

The information presented in the course is the primary benefit, but attendance also fulfills one of the eligibility requirements for the Soil and Water Conservation District to be able to cost share with you on needed fencing, water development, soil fertility and addition of legumes for your planned grazing system.

Please contact the Wright County Soil and Water Conservation District at 417-741-6195 ext. 4 for additional information.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner. Contracts will cover the entire agricultural operation and will be for 5 years. CSP payments will compensate producers for:

- Installing and adopting additional conservation activities;
- Improving, maintaining, and managing conservation activities in place at the time the contract;
- Adopting resource-conserving crop rotations to achieve beneficial crop rotations.

Is CSP right for you?

- ☐ Are you willing to commit time to inventory and document your conservation activities and production system to determine eligibility and ranking?
- ☐ Do you have records of your farming activities and are you willing to continue maintaining records to document your conservation activities? Records will be used during NRCS field visits to verify accuracy of application information before contracts are approved.
- ☐ Are you ready to enter into a 5 year contract requiring you to apply additional conservation activities and to improve, maintain, and manage existing conservation activities?

The 2009 CSP sign-up runs from August 10th to September 30th. If you would like to apply or just learn more about this program contact your local USDA-NRCS office, 5220 S. Hwy 5, Hartville, 417-741-6195 ext. 3.



Improving Your Pastures This Winter
By Cody Whorton

I know that it seems a little soon to be thinking about winter; however, this is the time of year to start thinking about improving your pasture this winter. There are a couple of ways that you can improve your pasture during the dormant time of year.

One way to improve your pasture is to interseed legumes. In order to ensure that the seed gets to the soil you need to either graze off the pasture or cut the pasture close. When you seed legumes in the winter you are allowing the freezing and thawing of the ground to get the seed into the soil for good seed to soil contact. Adequate seed to soil contact is essential for the seed to germinate when the conditions are right in the spring.

The second way that you can improve your pasture in the winter is by unrolling hay for cows in the pasture you wish to improve. By doing this it allows for the manure to be spread throughout the field instead of having a concentration of manure around a bale ring. By unrolling your bales it is building some organic matter in the soil and makes the soil not apt to erode as quickly as it may have in the past.

Cost-Share assistance may be available to you to improve permanent vegetative cover. The seeding date for this practice is December 15th to March 1st. If you are interested in cost-share or technical assistance, call or stop by our office to visit with myself, Wesley or Harlin.